by prescribed workload of individual category of teachers in each department. However, the number of PETs and Yoga teachers depend upon the students enrolment and number of sections in secondary department of Vidyalaya respectively.

2. Kendriya Vidyalayas having classes I to VIII are sanctioned one post of Principal Grade-II. Kendriya Vidyalayas having classes IX and above are sanctioned Principal Grade-I. In addition to Principal a post of Vice-Principal is given when the total enrolment of Vidyalaya is 1000 and above.
3. Where ever the primary classes are located in a separate building or functioning in a different shift or where total enrolment of Vidyalaya is more than 700, a post of Headmaster is sanctioned.
4. Each Vidyalaya having classes upto VI and above are provided with a Librarian.
5. Posts of Office Superintendent/Head Clerk, UDC and LDC are based on the enrolment of Vidyalaya.
6. One Lab. Attendent post is sanctioned for each laboratory in a Vidyalaya.
7. Presently posts of Group D are sanctioned at the rate of 06 for a fullfledged Vidyalaya.

Conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar and Ahmedabad-Vijapur railway line

668. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received the comments of the Gujarat Government on the feasibility report for conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar and Ahmedabad-Vijapur railway line into Broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be taken up and the time schedule for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no system of obtaining comments from the State Govt. on project feasibility reports of the Railways.

(c) These projects are not yet sanctioned, as such, the reply to this part of the question does not arise.

Frequent Train Accidents

669. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 passengers were killed and 100 hurt in Gorakhpur Gonda Passenger train that rammed into a stationary goods train at Domingarh railway station;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(d) whether for the last three months a number of train accidents took place in all parts of the country;

(e) if so, the total number of acidents and the amount of loss suffered by the passengers as well as by the Government; and

(f) steps being taken to check such rail accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) In the accident on 18.4.96 involving 583 Up Gorakhpur-Gonda Passenger and Dn Gorakhpur Cantt. Special train at Domingarh station of North Eastern Railway, 54 persons were killed, 47 sustained grievous injuries and 37 suffered minor injuries.

(b) and (c) The accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, whose report is awaited.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There were 102 train accidents on Indian Railways during April-June 1996. the approximate cost of damage to railway property is estimated at Rs. 11.42 Crores.

(f) The following safety measures have been adopted to check such accidents:—

(1) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.

(2) Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'On' position.

(3) Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(4) Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.

(5) The track is maintained by Tie tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.

(6) For monitoring of the track, geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(7) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.

(8) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle all ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.

(9) Training facilities for drivers, guard and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.

(10) Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge of rules is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

Popularity of Distance Education System

670. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Distance Education System is getting very popular;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide this facility in every State;

(c) what is the present position with regard to the facility of Distance Education in the coutnry; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SATE IN THE DEPTT. OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The benefits of Distance Education Programmes are available across the country through the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at the University level and the National Open School at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels. These institutions, established by the Central Government cater to the demands of students unable to continue their education in colleges or schools due to poverty or other socio-economic compulsions.

IGNOU offers its academic programmes through its 17 Regional and 255 Study Centres with around 3,00,000 students on its rolls. This University also coordinates and promotes Distance Education Sector at the University level through its Distance Education Council.

Besides, State Open Universities and a number of Correspondence Course Institutes attached to "Conventional Universities" also offer instructions at the University level. The details of these institutions are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

The National Open School, established in 1989, similarly provides instructions at the School level in over 550 Study Centres around the country to more than 3,00,000 students. Its efforts are supplemented by 4 State Open Schools in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.